

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 01495 021752Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 AF-04 NSCE-00 PM-03
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FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2083
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1495

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, MILI, ET, SO, CU, AG, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON BRZEZINSKI AND AFRICA

REF: HAVANA 1476

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER NIKITA TOLUBEYEV (WHO RETURNED, MAY 24, FROM WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS FOUR-WEEK WORKING STAY IN SOVIET UNION) CLAIMED TO ACTING USINT CHIEF, JUNE 1, THAT SOVIETS HAD NO ROLE IN COMMISSIONING OR AUTHORIZING MAY 31 CUBAN ATTACK ON DR. BRZEZINSKI (REFTEL), DESPITE FACT THAT PRAVDA WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY CRITICIZING HIM. NONETHELESS, TOLUBEYEV ADDED, THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT THAT SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS DR. BRZEZINSKI AS "NUMBER ONE ENEMY OF DETENTE AND ARMS CONTROL." (FYI TOLUBEYEV, INCIDENTALLY, POINTED OUT THAT BREZHNEV'S FOREIGN POLICY ASSISTANT ALEKSANDROV IS ONLY "HELPER", NOT AN "ADVISOR", AND IS NOT PERMITTED TO UNDERTAKE FOREIGN MISSIONS OR MAKE POLICY STATEMENTS.

2. TOLUBEYEV CONTINUED THAT US HAD HEARD HIGH-LEVEL DENIALS
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PAGE 02 HAVANA 01495 021752Z

OF SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA, BUT HAD CHOSEN TO CONTINUE CRITICISM. US SHOULD BE AWARE, TOLUBEYEV SAID, THAT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS SOMETIMES GIVE FAULTY INFORMATION. ACTING USINT CHIEF REPLIED THAT US ADMINISTRATION HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO SUPPLY BASIS FOR ITS CONCLUSIONS ON FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT TO APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.

3. TOLUBEYEV, CURIOUSLY, DID NOT CHALLENGE ACTING USINT CHIEF'S ASSERTION THAT CUBAN TROOP PRESENCE IN AFRICA IS NOW A MAJOR TROUBLING FACTOR IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND THAT CUBANS APPEAR TO BE FOLLOWING TROTSKYITE LINE IN SEEKING TO EXPORT REVOLUTION. HE SAID SIMPLY THAT CUBANS CONSIDER THEMSELVES "INTERNATIONALISTS" AND THAT "UNITED STATES MUST WORK HARD ON CASTRO."

4. AS FOR SOVIET POLICY IN AFRICA, TOLUBEYEV STATED, MOSCOW SUPPORTS "NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" BUT BELIEVES THAT: A) POLITICAL SOLUTION SHOULD BE FOUND FOR ERITREAN PROBLEM, B) NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE HELD BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA AND BETWEEN CHAD AND LIBYA, AND C) MORE PRES-SURE SHOULD BE APPLIED TO SOUTH AFRICA TO SECURE NAMIBIA WITHDRAWAL AND JUST SOLUTION FOR RHODESIAN PROBLEM. TOLUBEYEV ATTRIBUTED GREAT IMPORTANCE IN AFRICAN CONTEXT TO POSSIBLE SOVIET-AMERICAN CONVERSATIONS ON LIMITATIONS OF TRANSFERS OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. TOLUBEYEV ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH POTENTIAL CONVERSATIONS DO NOT TOUCH PROBLEM OF CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN AFRICA.

5. COMMENT: TOLUBEYEV'S FAILURE TO STICK UP MORE STRONGLY FOR CASTRO'S OVERSEAS MILITARY PRESENCE SUGGESTS THAT THERE MAY BE SOME FRICTION WITH CUBANS OR AT LEAST SOME INDIVIDUAL ASPECTS OF THIS PRESENCE.
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PAGE 03 HAVANA 01495 021752Z

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